



GAMEDAY

MAY - JUNE 2023

WELCOME TO THE 2023 SEASON

Hey Fans!

We are so excited to welcome you back to Bank of the James Stadium for the 2023 season. We have spent all off-season preparing for this moment, and we look forward to having you join us for our quest for another Carolina League Championship.

Last season, the team fell just short. The Hillcats won the first-half division crown in spectacular fashion by defeating the Delmarva Shorebirds in a doubleheader on the final day of the first half to secure their spot in the postseason. In the first round of the playoffs, they squared off against in-state rival, Fredericksburg, coming back to win the series after dropping game one. In the Championship, Lynchburg took on the Charleston RiverDogs, the defending Carolina League Champs. The Hillcats scratched and clawed, but lost the series in two games, ending the season on the cusp of glory.

This year, Lynchburg is back with a vengeance. A roster loaded with talented prospects and exciting young players, a coaching staff determined on bringing a championship back to the Hill City, and a front office dedicated to bringing you the best experience possible each-and-every game.

Won't you join us as we make history together?

We look forward to seeing you at Bank of the James Stadium all throughout the season as we bring America's pasttime to your backyard. There's only one thing left to say... Play Ball!

Sincerely,
The Lynchburg Hillcats



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MEET THE COACHING STAFF

The Lynchburg Hillcats, in conjunction with the Cleveland Guardians, have announced their coaching staff for the 2023 season.

The Hillcats will be led at the helm by a new manager, Jordan Smith. Last season, Smith served as the manager for the Arizona Complex League team. Prior to that, he spent 2019 and 2021 in Lake County as the bench coach. His staff will consist of pitching coach Tony Arnold, hitting coach Ordomar Valdez, and Yan Rivera as the bench coach. Franklin Sammons is returning for a second season as the athletic trainer.

Smith, a recent graduate of St. Cloud State University, will step into his first full-season league managerial stint. In his playing career, he was drafted by Cleveland in the ninth round of the 2011 Major League Baseball Draft from St. Cloud State. Smith began his career in Mahoning Valley where he hit .300. The following year, he would spend the season in Lake County, hitting .316 with nine home runs and 74 runs batted in.

Smith would spend a total of eight years in minor league baseball, making it as high as Triple-A before his coaching career began. This will be his fifth-year coaching in the Guardians organization.

Tony Arnold spent last season alongside Smith as the pitching coach for the Arizona Complex League team. Arnold graduated from the University of Texas at Austin with a degree in physical education in 1981. He was drafted by the Baltimore Orioles in the tenth round of the 1981 draft before spending several seasons in the minors with both the Orioles and the Dodgers. He would crack the majors in 1986 and 1987 with Baltimore, posting a 5.08 ERA in 38 appearances.

Upon retiring in 1990, he began as a minor league pitching coach with the Dodgers before moving onto Cleveland in 1992. Since then, he has coached at every level of minor league baseball, including several stops in Lynchburg in 2015, 2018, and 2021.

Ordomar Valdez served as the hitting coach for the Guardians Dominican Summer League Blue team last season. Valdez began his time with Cleveland in 2011 when he signed as an infielder with the organization out of San Pedro de Macoris, Dominican Republic. He would eventually make it as high as Triple-A, before spending a few seasons internationally and in independent baseball.

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Valdez last season playing came during the 2017 season with the Pittsburg Diamonds of the Pacific Association. Last season, his DSL team hit .246 with 12 home runs and 248 RBI. They would finish with a record of 31-29.

Yan Rivera spent last season as the bench coach for the Lake County Captains, who made it all the way to the championship series before losing in three games. Rivera is one of the youngest coaches in the Guardians organization, having graduated from La Salle University in 2018 with a degree in psychology. He was a two-time captain for the Explorers, and in his senior season, Rivera had a slash line of .286/.394/.429.

Rivera is the son of former major league infielder Luis Rivera. His father served as the inaugural skipper for the Lake County Captains in 2003. He spent 11 seasons in major league baseball with stops in Montreal, Boston, New York, Houston, and Kansas City.

Andrew Coleman will be joining the team as the strength and conditioning coordinator. Coleman is a local product, who grew up in Concord, Virginia before attending Rustburg High School and eventually Averett University where he played football. From there, he earned a degree in sports medicine.

Coleman joins the Guardians organization after spending several years with Gardner Webb and Florida Atlantic University.

Franklin Sammons is the only returner to Lynchburg from last-year's coaching staff. With Sammons as the athletic trainer, the Hillcats were able to play their way to the Carolina League Championship series, losing in two games to the Charleston RiverDogs. Sammons has spent his entire career with the Guardians organization after interning with Cleveland while pursuing a degree in athletic training from Manchester University. Upon graduation, he was hired as a full-time Minor League Athletic Trainer by the Guardians.



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HILLCATS ANNOUNCE 2023 ROSTER

The Lynchburg Hillcats in conjunction with the Cleveland Guardians are excited to announce the release of the 2023 Break Camp Roster.

This year's Opening Day roster will feature many members of the 2022 Cleveland Guardians draft class as well as several members of the MLB.com Guardians Top 30 Prospects list. The two members of the list are Parker Messick and Wuilfredo Antunez. Last season, Antunez spent some time in Lynchburg during the season.

Messick (number 21 in the Guardians Top 30), a left-handed pitcher, was drafted round 2, pick 54 by the Guardians in the draft. Messick attended Florida State where he excelled on the mound where he earned First Team All-ACC honors in his final season. The native of Florida helped carry the Seminoles to an NCAA Regional's appearance, where he defeated UCLA in his lone start.

Antunez, a native of Venezuela, joins the Hillcats as a highly touted outfielder. Currently ranked as the 27th best prospect in the Guardians organization, Antunez looks to build on the strong hitting which has carried him through the organization. Last season in five games with the Hillcats, Antunez hit .333 with four walks and an OPS of 1.100.

Though the roster holds an older average age than other squads, many members of the squad will be making their professional baseball debut. Twelve other members of the Guardians 2022 Draft Class will be joining Messick in Lynchburg this season, most of which being pitchers.

The other draft class members joining the Hillcats are Nate Furman (Rd. 4, Pk. 121), Guy Lipscomb Jr. (Rd. 5, Pk. 151), Austin Peterson (Rd. 9, Pk. 271), Magnus Ellerts (Rd. 11, Pk. 331), Jack Jasiak (Rd. 12, Pk. 361), Tyresse Turner (Rd. 13, Pk. 391), Pres Cavanaugh (Rd. 14, Pk. 421), Adam Tulloch (Rd. 15, Pk. 451), Angel Zarate (Rd. 17, Pk. 511), Zach Jacobs (Rd. 18, Pk. 541), and Shawn Rapp (Rd. 20, Pk. 601).

Hillcats fans will also see several other familiar faces to Antunez. The returning pitchers include Reny Artiles, Yeury Gervacio, Braunny Munoz, Alonzo Richardson, Sameul Vasquez, Wardquelin Vasquez, Miguel Vini-cio, and Juan Zapata. Returning hitters will be Juan Benjamin, Antunez, and Lexer Saduy.



A large, stylized white letter 'B' with a thick outline, set against a solid red background. The letter is written in a cursive, flowing style.

LIVE

scheuwels
home



COME BE A COMMUNITY CHAMPION

The Lynchburg Hillcats are looking forward to once again partnering with local non-profit organizations for our Community Champions Fundraising Program.

The Hillcats Community Champions Program allows local non-profit organizations to earn money through selling Hillcats tickets for the 2023 season. Each organization that joins the program will receive a link to discounted general admission tickets for a game of their choosing. The organization will then receive \$4 for each ticket sold during their program.

This season, the Community Champions program will be a season-long competition, with prizes awarded to the highest selling organizations. The contest will be broken up into the first and second-half of the season.

The winners of each half will receive a Skybox for a Friday or Saturday night, an appearance from Southpaw at their organization, a table on the concourse, a live radio chat with the Hillcats broadcaster, and more. The runners up will receive a Championship Recap video board recognition with tickets to that night, a southpaw appearance, and more.

As part of the program, the Hillcats will also provide rolling awards based upon the number of tickets sold. All groups will receive a welcome message on the video board, free tickets for staff and team members, and a promo code for fundraising tickets.

For all questions and inquiries into the 2023 Hillcats Community Champions Fundraising Program, please contact Hagen Allred at hallred@lynchburg-hillcats.com.



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Monday - Friday 8 a.m - 7 p.m.

Saturday & Sunday 10 a.m - 5 p.m.

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2023 PROMOTIONS

4.11 - OPENING DAY MAGNET SCHEDULE GIVEAWAY SPONSORED BY BANK OF THE LANES	6.3 - AUTISM AWARENESS NIGHT FIREWORKS SPONSORED BY POSTER FUELS	7.8 - FAITH AND FAMILY NIGHT FIREWORKS SPONSORED BY CENTRAL VIRGINIA FC
4.15 - LFD 140TH BIRTHDAY FIREWORKS & T-SHIRT GIVEAWAY SPONSORED BY LYNCHBURG FIRE DEPARTMENT COMMUNITY OUTREACH	6.15 - GAMING NIGHT CONSOLE GIVEAWAY	7.20 - DAY OF THE DRAGS NIGHT
4.27 - COLLEGE NIGHT STUDENT DISCOUNTS SPONSORED BY PRIORITY ONE PROPERTIES	6.18 - LITTLE HILLCATS NIGHT 3/4 SLEEVE GIVEAWAY SPONSORED BY HURLEYS SPORTSWEAR	7.21 - LOAD NIGHT CUP GIVEAWAY SPONSORED BY FOREST HILL ENDORSEMENTS
4.28 - BANK IN THE PARK DOG BANDANA GIVEAWAY \$1 HOTDOGS SPONSORED BY PETZ BOWLING & PLAYSPACE & MICHIGAN STATE FARM	6.17 - HILLCATS VS. DANGER FIREWORKS	7.22 - MARGARITAVILLE NIGHT FIREWORKS
4.29 - COFA WEEKEND FIREWORKS	6.18 - FATHER'S DAY BBQ	8.10 - HUNTERS FOR HUNGRY
5.16 - POSTER GIVE NIGHT SPONSORED BY PHANTOM (PT HUNT)	6.30 - COCA COLA GIVEAWAY SPONSORED BY BANK OF THE LANES	8.11 - FIRST RESPONDERS APPRECIATION T-SHIRT GIVEAWAY SPONSORED BY HIGH PEAK SPORTSWEAR
5.18 - AVIATION AND AEROSPACE NIGHT SPONSORED BY LYNCHBURG REGIONAL AIRPORT & BOEING AIRCRAFT	7.1 - MILITARY APPRECIATION FIREWORKS	8.12 - FIREWORKS
5.19 - PINK OUT THE PARK PINK T-SHIRT GIVEAWAY SPONSORED BY CENTRAL ALABAMA REGIONAL CHILDREN'S	7.2 - FAMILY BBQ	8.24 - HERO NIGHT SPONSORED BY CASASO DESIGN, INC.
5.20 - STAR WARS NIGHT FIREWORKS	7.3 - FIREWORKS	8.25 - DEFENDERS OF THE DIAMOND
5.21 - PARTON ME NIGHT SPONSORED BY VESTERWAYS	7.4 - INDEPENDENCE DAY FIREWORKS	8.26 - KICKOFF TO FOOTBALL FIREWORKS
6.1 - STEAM NIGHT SPONSORED BY FIRST COMMON CORPORATION	7.5 - NOTHING NIGHT	8.7 - TRUCK OR TREAT AT THE BALLPARK
6.2 - HELLO TO SUMMER DOCLER GIVEAWAY \$1 HOTDOGS SPONSORED BY DICK'S SHIRT	7.6 - THROWBACK THURSDAY	8.8 - COUNTDOWN TO CHRISTMAS LUDY SWEATER GIVEAWAY SPONSORED BY BANK OF THE LANES
	7.7 - BEACH TOWEL GIVEAWAY SPONSORED BY DICK'S SHIRT	8.9 - GOODBYE TO SUMMER FIREWORKS SPONSORED BY BROWN'S HEATING AND AIR
		8.10 - FAN APPRECIATION DAY

GATES OPEN AT 5:30 FOR HAPPY HOUR, FRI & SAT



HILLCATS ANNOUNCE PARTNERSHIP WITH LAYSI

The Lynchburg Hillcats and the Lynchburg Area Youth Sports Initiative (LAYSI) are excited to announce a new partnership for the 2023 season.

As part of this partnership, the Hillcats will be collecting donations of new and gently used sporting goods to donate to the LAYSI Sports Locker. All fans who donate gear will receive a free general admission ticket to a Lynchburg Hillcats home game.

The LAYSI Sports Locker is a program that provides underprivileged youth in our community access to sports equipment so they can participate in youth sports. The program seeks to help build confidence to participate and succeed in sports for disadvantaged children.

The items of need include sports equipment, including balls, cleats, and gloves. LAYSI also accepts athletic apparel such as T-shirts and shorts. They also accept monetary donations for those without equipment that are still looking to help the organization.

Fans can drop off their donation in the LAYSI Equipment Cart at the box office of Bank of the James Stadium where they will receive their free ticket. For more information on the LAYSI Sports Locker, please visit <https://www.laysi.org/sports-locker>.



SOUTHPAW'S FUN ZONE

Hillcats Word Search

B	V	I	R	G	I	N	I	A	B	E	U	E	S
W	T	A	B	E	U	G	G	R	A	L	P	R	T
B	L	R	R	T	I	B	C	S	S	K	I	A	R
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D	B	R	E	P	G	L	T	B	B	A	C	G	K
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